

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 FEA-01 ERDA-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, PINR, BEXP, NI

SUBJECT: PERSONNEL CHANGES IN NIGERIAN NATIONAL OIL CORPORATION

REFS: LAGOS 3866, USDOC 6638, LAGOS 4090

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. NIGERIAN NATIONAL OIL CORPORATION (NNOC) ANNOUNCED MAY 13
IN LETTERS MAILED TO OTHER OIL COMPANIES THAT EFFECTIVE MAY 5
F.R.A. MARINHO, EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION MANAGER, AND WILSON
O. UWAMU, MARKETING MANAGER, NO LONGER ASSOCIATED WITH NNOC.
PROVISIONALLY, THEIR DUTIES ARE BEING HANDLED RESPECTIVELY BY
B.A. OSUNO, DEPUTY CHIEF GEOLOGIST, AND OLADRIAN FAWIBE, SENIOR
ECONOMIST. MARINHO'S ROLE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NNOC EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ASSUMED BY D.A. BADEJO, ENGINEERING AND
TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER. NO NEW APPOINTMENTS TO NNOC HAVE
BEEN ANNOUNCED.

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2. ALTHOUGH MARINHO AND UWAMU'S DEPARTURE FROM NNOC HAS BEEN EXPECTED (BOTH, ACCORDING TO RUMOR, HAVE BEEN PICKED TO RETURN TO MINISTRIES--MARINHO IN OIL AND UWAMU IN A FIELD UNRELATED TO OIL), THE BLUNTLY WORDED ANNOUNCEMENT WAS SURPRISING IN THE ABSENCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR NEW APPOINTMENTS AND ABOUT THE EVEN LARGER SHUFFLE EXPECTED AT ANY TIME AS A RESULT OF CREATING THE NEW MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND ENERGY (LAGOS 2947). THE CHANGE TOOK PLACE WHILE MARINHO, BADEJO, AND CHIEF PETROLEUM ENGINEER ADAMS (WHO HAS SAME PERSONAL GRADE AS OSUNO) WERE ABROAD ATTENDING OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE IN HOUSTON (MAY 5-8) AND WORLD PETROLEUM CONGRESS IN TOKYO (MAY 11-16). MARINHO AND UWAMU ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN QUARRELING WITH MINISTRY OF MINES AND POWER PERMSEC ASIODU (WHO IS ALSO NNOC CHAIRMAN), AND ONE INTERPRETATION OF THEIR DEPARTURE WOULD BE THAT ASIODU STRUCK WHILE HE STILL HAS THE AUTHORITY. WHETHER MARINHO AND ALL THE OTHERS ALREADY KNOW WHERE THEY WILL END UP OR WHETHER REAL IN-FIGHTING IS GOING ON, THE EMBASSY CANNOT TELL.

3. EMBASSY NOTES THAT EFFECTIVE DATE OF MARINHO'S DEPARTURE FROM NNOC COINCIDED WITH BEGINNING OF OTC, INTENTIONAL OR UNINTENTIONAL EFFECT OF WHICH IS THAT ANYTHING HE DID THERE WOULD NOT BE BINDING ON NNOC. EMBASSY WOULD IN ANY EVENT HAVE BEEN INTERESTED IN INFORMATION FROM DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ON OUTCOME OF THE NNOC OFFICIALS' VISIT TO HOUSTON (REFTELS), BUT TIMING OF MARINHO'S DEPARTURE FROM NNOC MAKES ANYTHING DOC CAN REPORT DOUBLY INTERESTING.

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